

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-28 (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) A method for introducing and activating a getter in a vacuum vessel, which comprises:

introducing the getter packaged in a gastight flexible film protective sleeve filled with a protective gas into the vacuum vessel;

closing off and evacuating said vacuum vessel; and

opening said protective sleeve after the evacuation has commenced by filling said gastight protective sleeve with a protective gas; and

bursting said sleeve by evacuating said vacuum chamber and causing said protective sleeve to be expanded against a projection formed in an interior wall of said vacuum chamber.

Claims 30-31